Information

Recorded water levels in this bulletin are derived from a representative network of water level gages on each lake (see cover map). Providers of these data are the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Ocean Service, and Integrated Science Data Management, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. The Detroit District, Corps of Engineers and Environment Canada derive historic and projected lake levels under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data.

This bulletin is produced monthly as a public service. The Corps also, on a weekly basis publishes online the *Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths*, which provides a forecast of depths in the connecting rivers between the Great Lakes and the International Section of the St. Lawrence River. This *Monthly Bulletin of the Lake Levels for the Great Lake*s may be obtained free of charge by writing to the address shown on the front cover, by calling (313) 226-6442 or emailing hhpm@usace.army.mil. Notices of change of address should include the name of the publication. This information is available on the internet at http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/GreatLakesInformation.aspx.

Great Lakes Basin Hydrology
January 2015

Overall, the Great Lakes basin received 60% of average precipitation during the month of January. Each of the lakes experienced less than average precipitation. The net basin supply of water to all lakes was less than their long term average. For Lake Superior, this marked the first time since January 2014 that the net basin supply was not higher than long term average. The tables below list January precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

A comparison of monthly mean lake levels for January to long-term average (1918-2013) shows both Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron to be 9 inches above average. Lakes St. Clair and Erie were 5 and 7 inches above long-term average, respectively, while Lake Ontario was at its long term average level.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)

BASIN	January				12-Month Comparison			
	2015	Average (1900-2010)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 Months	Average (1900-2010)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	1.36	1.94	-0.58	70	33.29	30.46	2.83	109
Michigan-Huron	1.14	2.14	-1.00	53	34.91	32.44	2.47	108
Erie	1.82	2.49	-0.67	73	33.75	35.43	-1.68	95
Ontario	1.57	2.74	-1.17	57	35.19	35.73	-0.54	98
Great Lakes	1.32	2.20	-0.88	60	34.31	32.64	1.67	105

LAKE	January Net Basin Supplies[1] (cfs)		January Outflows[2] (cfs)	
	2015	Average (1900-2008)	2015	Average[3] (1900-2008)
Superior	-30,000	-13,000	85,000	69,000
Michigan-Huron	51,000	60,000	165,000	161,000
Erie	1,000	29,000	206,000	196,000
Ontario	22,000	32,000	221,000	222,000

Notes: Values (excluding averages) are based on preliminary computations; cfs denotes cubic feet per second.

[1] Net basin supply is the net result of precipitation falling on the lake, runoff from precipitation falling on the land which flows to the lake, and evaporation from the lake. Negative net basin supply denotes evaporation exceeded runoff and precipitation. The net total supply can be found by adding the net basin supply and the outflow from the upstream lake.

[2] Does not include diversions.

[3] Lake Ontario average water supplies and average outflows are based on period of record 1900-2005